

opportunities to participate in reading and writing projects. Recently, Challenger Elementary pupils partnered with the Arctic Cat Corporation to create educational books about snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles for elementary-age children. These books now are being sold nationwide.

Challenger Elementary has benefited greatly from the strong support of the school board, which backed the Literacy Collaborative financially, as well as the community, which donated more than \$40,000 for the school's book room. To date, staff members and volunteers have given more than 1,160 hours of their time preparing the book room, which boasts more than 5,000 volumes. Clearly, the Literacy Collaborative is more than a school initiative; it is also a prized community initiative that has been embraced by many volunteers and generous donors.

The program's success is evident in the students' strong test scores. Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment scores have improved since the initiation of the Literacy Collaborative, and Northwest Evaluation Association scores are also on the rise. In 2006, Challenger Elementary received four stars in reading from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Challenger Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Patrick Marolt, and the dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Challenger Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Challenger Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Challenger Elementary School in Thief River Falls for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

BAXTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BAXTER, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Baxter Elementary School, in Baxter, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Baxter Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. Located in one of Minnesota's most rapidly growing communities, Baxter Elementary School is setting a high standard for academic achievement throughout the school district. Baxter Elementary is committed to continuous curriculum review and staff development. The school offers a variety of enrichment opportunities to children, such as the Junior Achievement Program and the Junior Great Books Program. An after-school program called Pals at Play is offered for children who need support in certain curricular areas.

Baxter Elementary has developed an innovative program called Teachers Needing Teachers, designed to assist pupils who are struggling in the classroom but who do not meet the criteria for special education services. The Teachers Needing Teachers Program is composed of an intervention team of experienced teaching professionals: a representative from each grade level at the school, the principal, a special education teacher, and the school's home-to-school collaborative liaison. The team has helped colleagues improve the classroom performance of children who are challenged academically and/or behaviorally.

Baxter Elementary has an active Parent-Teacher Organization that contributes greatly to the excellence of the school. The recent efforts of the PTO resulted in a significant expansion of the book collection in the library, as well as upgrades to the computer lab, playgrounds, and the Literacy Collaborative book room.

The success of Baxter Elementary is also reflected in its test scores. In 2005, the school was awarded five stars in reading and math from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Baxter Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Erin Herman, and the dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Baxter Elementary understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Baxter Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Baxter Elementary School in Baxter for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

BADGER SCHOOL DISTRICT, BADGER, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Badger School District, in Badger, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Badger School is truly a model of educational success. The school is dedicated to insuring that all students are prepared to function successfully and contribute to our ever-expanding world of technology and knowledge. Realizing that education is a multifaceted system involving the school, community, family, and governing bodies, Badger has developed an innovative curriculum that challenges students to achieve higher standards.

To prepare students to succeed in a global economy, Badger School recently received a grant to implement Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering curriculum that promotes the integration of science, math, technology,

and engineering. The district has also partnered with Humanitarian Services for Children of Vietnam and has a sister school in Hanoi. Through this partnership, the children are learning about cultural diversity and helping those less fortunate.

Badger School District serves 217 students in kindergarten through grade 12. The elementary school was recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education as a four-star school in reading and as a five-star school in math in 2003 and 2004. In 2005, the school received five stars in both subjects. Badger Secondary School received a three-star rating in math and reading in 2004 and improved to a four-star rating in math in 2005. As further testimony to the exemplary performance of Badger School District, the district was named an outperformer in math and reading based on academic achievement levels compared with the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in the district by Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services.

Much of the credit for Badger School District's success belongs to its principal and superintendent, Gwen Borgen, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Badger School District understand that in order to be successful a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Badger School District should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Badger School District in Badger for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Lakeview Elementary School, in Lakeville, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Lakeview Elementary School is truly a model of educational success, and its staff is committed to the success of every child. The school has developed an early intervention program to identify children, early in their school career, who could have difficulties in reading and to provide intensive assistance in both kindergarten and first grade. This program has been extremely successful and has served as a model for other Lakeville schools and other school districts throughout the State.

Lakeview Elementary challenges all pupils to excel in reading through participation in an extensive, out-of-school reading program called "Accelerated Reader." The AR program encourages children to read more and to increase comprehension through computer-based assessments, which the